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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

United States of America,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
Gerardo Garcia-Lopez,)
Defendant.)

)

Having considered the Motion of the Defendant to allow the Government additional time under the Speedy Trial Act to file an indictment, together with the Government's response to that motion, the Court finds that the ends of justice served by granting the extension outweigh the best interest of the public and the Defendant in a speedy trial. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A).

In making this finding, the Court has considered each of the factors specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B). In addition, the Court has considered the following:

1. Counsel has only recently been appointed for the Defendant.
 2. The Government's policy, which is well known to the Court through proceedings in
us cases involving numerous defendants, provides a sentencing incentive to encourage
pleas of guilty in cases brought pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1326.
 3. The savings in time by expediting the proceedings in appropriate cases serves the
interest by reducing the costs of detention, prosecution and defense as well as in bringing
charges to a prompt resolution.
 4. The avoidance of grand jury proceedings with the voluntary consent of a defendant,
appropriate, reduces the number of proceedings required to bring a criminal matter to a
t resolution.

1 5. An early decision by a defendant to reach a plea agreement with the Government
2 often avoids the need to present the matter to a grand jury.

3 6. In order to allow the Defendant's attorney an opportunity to investigate possible
4 defenses to a charge in a criminal complaint and to adequately counsel the Defendant, additional
5 time is often needed for the filing of an indictment or information beyond the thirty (30) day
6 period provided in the Speedy Trial Act. The Government's standard offer requires the
7 Defendant to waive his right to grand jury proceedings and agree to proceed by the filing of an
8 information. If the Defendant does not agree to this procedure within the time allowed by
9 statute, the Government would withdraw the plea offer.

10 7. Disposition of immigration cases through the pre-indictment plea offer results in an
11 expeditious resolution of the case. Granting a thirty (30) day continuance allows defense
12 counsel time to assure that the plea offer is in the Defendant's best interest.

13 The Court therefore concludes that the ends of justice are best served by granting an
14 extension of time to present the case to the grand jury and in excluding a period of thirty (30)
15 days under the Speedy Trial Act. In making this determination, the Court has particularly taken
16 into account that the failure to grant the Defendant's request "would deny counsel for the
17 defendant. . .the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the
18 exercise of due diligence." 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(B)(iv).

19 IT IS ORDERED granting Defendant's Motion to Extend Time to Indict (Doc. #5).

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that excludable time shall begin to run on the 31st day
21 after arrest for a period of thirty (30) days in which the Government may present the case to the
22 grand jury.

23 DATED this 21st day of October, 2008.

David K. Duncan
United States Magistrate Judge